

VLR-6/12/02 NRHP-12/31/02

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Homespun

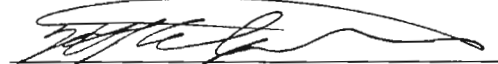
other names/site number Bell House; DHR File # 34-180

### 2. Location

street & number 949 Cedar Creek Grade (VA Route 622) not for publication: N/A  
city or town Winchester vicinity X  
state Virginia code VA county Frederick code 069 Zip 22604

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

  
Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date 11/14/02  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
     entered in the National Register      removed from the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.      other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
     determined eligible for the  
National Register  
     See continuation sheet.  
     determined not eligible for the National Register

Signature of Keeper

**NPS Form 10-900**  
**(Rev. 10-90)**  
**U. S. Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**OMB No. 1024-4018**

**Homespun**  
**Frederick County, VA**

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**Homespun  
Frederick County, VA**

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)**

☒ \_X\_ private  
☐ \_\_\_ public-local  
☐ \_\_\_ public-State  
☐ \_\_\_ public-Federal

**Category of Property (Check only one box)**

  X   building(s)  
      district  
      site  
      structure  
      object

### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
2	0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Work in progress – Commercial Sub: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

## 7. Description

---

### Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic \_\_\_\_\_

Other: Dogtrot plan \_\_\_\_\_

---

### Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone \_\_\_\_\_

roof Standing seam metal \_\_\_\_\_

walls Wood, stone, and brick \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Narrative Description** See Continuation Sheets for Section 7, Pages 1 to 6

---

## 8. Statement of Significance

---

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.
-

Homespun  
Frederick County, VA

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance ca. 1795 to ca. 1825

Significant Dates ca. 1795

ca. 1825

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance See Continuation Sheets for Section 8

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

See Continuation Sheets for Section 9, Pages 12 to 13

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acres of Property 1 acre more or less

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 17 742489 4338667 2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description See Continuation Sheet for Section 10

Boundary Justification See Continuation Sheet for Section 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: Howard J. Kittell date 31 March 2001

street & number: 714 S. Stewart Street telephone 540.662.2623

city or town Winchester state VA zip code 22601

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name R.J. Turner of Turner Real Estate, LLC

street & number 2971 Valley Avenue telephone 540.722.2200

city or town Winchester state VA zip code 22601

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Homespun  
Frederick County, VA

Section 7 Page 1

---

**7. Summary Description:**

Homespun occupies one acre of land fronting on VA Route 622 (Cedar Creek Grade) on the border between Frederick County and the city of Winchester, Virginia. The house is a vernacular, two-and-half-story log, frame, stone and brick structure dating from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It is rectangular in form with a transverse gable standing-seam metal roof. The earliest and largest portion of the house consists of a three-bay wooden structure comprised of two log pens with a frame connector, or dogtrot, and covered with weatherboards. Homespun is one of only a few known buildings of this plan type in the area. The dogtrot plan is most common in the lower Midwest and South. Evidence suggests that this section was constructed during the mid 1790s. Late in the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century a two-story, two-bay, stone and brick addition was constructed at the eastern end of the original building. In addition to the main house, there is also a stone smokehouse approximately 50 feet to the rear of the main house. The one-acre lot is a remnant of what once was a 466+ acre farm that is also part of the Second Kernstown Battlefield.

**Narrative Description**

Homespun is a long, rectangular, single-pile vernacular farmhouse. The building was constructed in two distinct building campaigns. Evidence suggests that the original portion of the house was constructed in the mid 1790s. It is of log and frame construction and appears to have originally consisted of two log pens with a dogtrot or breezeway, which has subsequently been enclosed. It is evident that by the time of this enclosure there was a greater concern for architectural elaboration. The building then possessed a generally symmetrical façade and was covered in weatherboard with a unifying ridgeline. On the interior new door surrounds and a surviving fireplace surround from this period also testify to a desire for more architectural pretension. The plan and construction of this portion of the house are most unusual for its location and is one of only a few known examples in the Winchester-Frederick County area of Virginia. Typically the dogtrot plan is found in the lower Midwest or in the Deep South where warmer and more humid weather conditions encouraged the use of covered open spaces that would conduct breezes. 1 (See Endnote)

It appears that this first house was constructed on a two-cell "dogtrot" plan consisting of two large, two-story log pens with a breezeway between them and all covered by one homogeneous transverse gable roof. Eventually the dogtrot, or breezeway, was enclosed to create a central passage with front and rear entrances and stairs to access the second floor and attic. The front and rear walls of the dogtrot are of frame construction. There appears to be brick nogging

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Homespun  
Frederick County, VA

Section 7 Page 2  
Narrative Description Continued

between the vertical supports. This contention that the dogtrot was later filled is further supported by the fact that that limestone foundation walls under the log and frame portions of the house are discontinuous. The foundation walls of the two log pens align but do not connect under the central passage. The passage foundation walls are not tied into the other foundation walls. Also, only the area below the passage has been excavated as a cellar. There is barely a crawlspace under the two log portions of the house. Lastly, the interior doorway moldings in the passage, as well as the moldings holding the transoms, are surprisingly delicate in execution, indicating a later construction period. These moldings are distinct from the others found in the house.

The original portion of the house has gable-end chimneys constructed of limestone to the top of the first floor with stone ledges at the bases of the weatherings. Brick stacks surmount the chimneys.

During the first quarter of the 19th century a two-story masonry addition was constructed at the eastern end of the house, interrupting the general symmetry of the original house. This addition, equal in width to the original house, appears to have contained the kitchen, given the size of the fireplace and hearth. *The first floor is of rubble limestone construction. The second-floor walls are of brick laid up in five-course American bond. The exterior-end chimney of the addition is patterned after the original chimneys, being of limestone and brick.*

The transverse gable roof has a continuous ridgeline over both the wooden and masonry portions of the house. This feature unites the somewhat disjunctive sections of the house into one long rectangular mass. The roof is now covered with standing-seam metal. Small windows flank the chimney in the west gable while there are no openings in the east gable. Brick three-course corbelled cornices top the front and rear walls of the masonry section of the building. *The front and rear eaves of the original portion of the house are boxed. This material is relatively new, making it difficult to determine if this form is a recent change or if the new material simply replicates an older form.*

The north façade, or road front, consists of five bays; three bays in the original portion and two bays in the masonry portion. The fenestration pattern (from left to right) is window, door, window, door, and window. The second-floor windows align with the first-floor openings. The masonry section has oak lintels over the window and door openings. There is a narrow, one-story shed-roof porch over the door and window of the masonry portion of the façade. This porch is of relatively recent vintage. It is without a flooring or paving, but several large stones comprise a



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Homespun  
Frederick County, VA

Section 7 Page 3

Narrative Description Continued

walkway to the door. Exposed rafter ends embedded at the top of the first-floor stone wall suggest that a porch may once have extended across the entire front of the masonry addition.

The south elevation has six bays on the first floor. The fenestration pattern is (from left to right) window, door, door, window, door and window. The last four open on to the lower level of a double-gallery porch. The second floor has five bays that generally align with those on the first-floor. The two easternmost bays are doors that access the second floor of the double-gallery porch.

The double-gallery porch extends across the four first-floor and three second-floor easternmost bays of the south elevation. The porch loosely approximates an earlier double porch in this same location, but it is not a reproduction of the early structure. The shed roof of the porch integrates into the main roof of the house. The roof structure predates the existing double porch. A wooden deck extends across the remainder of the first floor to the left of the porch. There is also an exterior set of steps that connect the two levels of the porch. *The porch and deck have railings consisting of turned balusters suggestive of late-19<sup>th</sup>-century designs.*

Vinyl-clad double-hung windows with new surrounds have replaced all of the original windows in the wooden portion of the structure. The two small windows in the western gable are also replacements. The first- and second-floor windows in the masonry portion have wooden, double-hung, six-over-six sashes. Several of these sashes are pegged, suggesting that they date to an early phase of the building. The mullion bars of the pegged sashes have consistent molding profiles. All of the exterior door and window surrounds consist of flat, unornamented boards.

The front and rear exterior doors of the wooden portion of the house are of vertical beaded boards topped by four-light transoms. *The front and rear first-floor doors of the masonry section are also of beaded boards. The rear door has had a window cut into it. The two second-floor doors that open onto the porch each have two raised panels below four-light windows.*

The exterior of the wooden portion of the house is covered with six-inch-wide weatherboards. Corner boards form the corners of the front and rear elevations. The weatherboards appears to be a replacement from some time in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The original eastern gable, now enclosed in the attic, retains the original ten-inch-wide beaded weatherboards.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Homespun  
Frederick County, VA**

**Section 7 Page 4  
Narrative Description Continued**

**Cellar**

Below the rear porch is an access to the cellar. Only the portion of the house below the center passage is excavated to full depth. There are crawl spaces under the remainder of the house. Stone and concrete retaining walls and steps line the walkway below the porch to the cellar doorway. The cellar itself consists of limestone walls. The rubble foundation walls are laid up wet. The western cellar wall consists partially of natural rock. From the cellar can be seen the log floor joists used below the entire first floor. There is an intact pegged wooden grill covering the window to the left of the door. A similar opening in the center of the opposite wall has been covered over. The door is of wooden planks.

**Interior: First Floor**

The house has a single-pile plan of four rooms and a passage. The second-floor plan is identical to that of the first floor. The plan consists of two rooms that flank a central passage and a room at the eastern end of house in the masonry addition.

The two rooms that flank the central passage are of log covered with lath and plaster. The westernmost room has the most elaborate moldings and mantel in the house. There is a beaded baseboard and molded chair rail. This room also has a lath and plaster ceiling. The fireplace surround has the greatest degree of architectural pretension of any element in the house. It consists of a plastered firebox surround, and two concentric sections divided by an asymmetrical molding. The mantelshelf is supported by a series of three knife-edge moldings characteristic of Winchester woodworking from the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The firebox and hearth have new firebrick. The floor is of random-width tongue-and-groove pine boards that run east to west. The floor of this room is slightly lower than that in the passage. The doorway from this room to the passage has an asymmetrical surround identical to that in the other log room on the opposite side of the passage. The window surrounds date to the 1990s' replacement of the original windows.

The central passage runs the depth of the house from south to north. Both end walls have exterior doors surmounted by four-light transoms. The doors are of vertical beaded wooden boards with box locks. There is a winder stair in the northeast corner of the passage enclosed by wide beaded boards. The first two steps are outside of the stair enclosure; the door to the stairwell is also of beaded boards similar to the other first-floor doors. There is a closet below the stair. The walls and ceiling of the passage are covered in lath and plaster. The floor is of random-width tongue-and-groove planks that run from east to west. The asymmetrical surrounds

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Homespun  
Frederick County, VA**

**Section 7 Page 5  
Narrative Description Continued**

of the four doors in the passage are distinct from the surrounds in the two flanking rooms. They have a sharper and flatter molding profile with a bead on the interior corners. The same molding is used on the door surrounds in the second-floor passage and on the door surround leading from the next log room into the masonry addition.

The log room to the east of the passage is of comparable size to the western room. Its walls are covered with lath and plaster. However these elements have been removed from the ceiling, exposing the second-floor joists and underside of the floorboards. These have been painted. The flooring is narrow tongue-and-groove pine boards that run from north to south, obviously overlaying the original floor. The passage door and southern exterior door are of beaded boards.

The door surrounds are identical to those in the western room. The two windows have been replaced as previously noted. The original surrounds have been removed and not replaced. The fireplace surround is an unusual feature for both this room and this house. It is of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and inspired by the designs of Charles Eastlake. Engaged columns topped by fluted brackets flank the firebox and support the mantelshelf. The spandrel over the firebox has incised foliate ornament characteristic of the Eastlake style. There is a cast-iron stove covering the firebox. To the left of the fireplace is a doorway that leads into the masonry addition.

The kitchen contains the largest fireplace in the house on its eastern wall. A wrought-iron lintel supports the wall above the large brick firebox. There is no evidence that there ever was a surround. The hearth, which extends across the width of the room, is of concrete and projects approximately four feet into the room. There is one window and one door in the other two exterior walls. The doors are of simple beaded boards while the windows have six-over-six double-hung sashes. There is a narrow molded surround around these four openings and the doorway in the western wall. The chimney from the original portion of the house comprises most of the western wall and projects approximately four feet into the room. It has been plastered as have the remainder of the walls and ceiling. The floor is of narrow tongue-and-groove-pine boards.

**Interior: Second Floor**

The westernmost room of the second floor has unpainted exposed log walls. The windows in the northern and southern walls have been replaced as earlier described. There are no surrounds. The attic floor joists and floorboards comprise the ceiling. These elements have been painted. From the nail pattern in the joists, it is evident that there was once a lath and plaster ceiling.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Homespun  
Frederick County, VA**

**Section 7 Page 6**

**Narrative Description Continued**

There is a beaded baseboard while the door surround is comprised of flat, unornamented boards. The door itself is of beaded boards with wrought-iron strap hinges on pintles. The floor is composed of random-width pine boards that run east to west. The floor level is slightly below that of the passage.

The two interior walls of the passage are of exposed logs while the two exterior walls are of plaster-covered lath over frame construction. Each exterior wall has a window with replacement sash. The stairway comes up into the middle of the eastern interior wall. Above it rises the wider stair to the attic. This stairway has a beaded-board enclosure. The passage floor is of random-width pine boards. Ghosts on the walls and floor suggest that the eastern end of the passage may have been portioned off as a separate room.

The room to the east of the passage also has exposed and unpainted log walls. The joists and attic floor comprise the ceiling. These were once covered with lath and plaster but now have been painted. There is a heavy beaded baseboard surrounding the room. The floor is of random-width pine planks. The windows in the south and north walls are replacements and there are no surrounds. On the right side of the eastern wall is a doorway leading to the second-floor room in the masonry portion of the house.

This room was once divided north to south into two rooms as is evidenced by the ghosts in the ceiling and the north and south walls. Today it is one room equal in size to the room below. The walls are covered with plaster with the exception of the exposed limestone of the chimney on the western wall. The northern wall has two windows with six-over-six wooden sash. The southern wall has two doors that lead outside onto the gallery of the rear porch. The ceiling plaster has been removed exposing the machine-sawn lath.

**Interior: Attic**

The attic consists of two sections, each corresponding to the two construction periods. The stairs come up into the larger original portion of the attic. The roof rafters are of logs, most retaining their bark. They are pinned together at the ridge; there is no ridgepole. The two small windows in the western gable that flank the exterior chimney have been replaced. There are two companion openings in the eastern interior gable that flank a chimney. This portion of the attic is floored with random-width planks that run east to west. The portion of the attic above the masonry section of the house has no flooring. The roof construction is similar to that in the original portion of the house except that there is a ridgepole. The original beaded weatherboards

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Homespun  
Frederick County, VA**

**Section 7 Page 7**

**Narrative Description Continued**

can be seen on the interior gable. The easternmost gable wall of the house is of brick and without openings.

**Outbuilding: Smokehouse or Meathouse**

Approximately 50 feet to the south of the main house is a stone structure thought to be a smokehouse or meathouse. Standing approximately 10 feet by 12 feet in size, the structure has a gable roof that runs north to south with a standing-seam metal roof. The only opening into the structure is through a low doorway on the right-hand side of the north wall. The doorway is framed with oak beams pinned at the corners and a stone sill or threshold. The door is of vertical boards. The interior has an earthen floor. The rafters are of log that are pinned at the ridge and without a ridgepole. The structure appears in an 1858 survey of the property, but most likely predates this period.

**Endnotes**

1. Kalbian, Maral S., *Frederick County, Virginia: History Through Architecture* (Winchester, Virginia, 1999), p. 33.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Homespun  
Frederick County, VA**

**Section 8 Page 8**

---

**8. Statement of Significance**

The house known as Homespun or the Bell House, located in central Frederick County, Virginia, was constructed in two principal building campaigns, one in the mid-1790s by local merchant Godfrey Miller and the second around 1825 by his son, John Miller. The dwelling is significant in local architecture as an example of a dogtrot-plan structure, a rare building form of the period. It consists of two independent pens--in this case constructed of logs-- originally with an open breezeway between them all under one roof. This building form is far more typical of the Deep South or lower Midwest than in the northwest corner of Virginia. The form was typically employed to create semi-enclosed spaces that were open to prevailing breezes, but sheltered from precipitation. By 1825 the dogtrot or breezeway was enclosed to create a center passage and the exterior was sheathed in weatherboards to create a generally symmetrical building with a three-bay façade. At about the same time a two-bay, two-story masonry addition was constructed at the east end of the original structure.

**Historical Background**

On June 5, 1790 Godfrey Miller (1730-1803) of Winchester purchased the land that would become known as Homespun and later the Bell House. The acquisition was from Jonathan Parkins and his wife Elizabeth. Parkins and his father Issac Parkins had been actively buying and selling land in Winchester and Frederick County since the 1750s. A condition of the sale was that Miller erect a dwelling with a brick or stone chimney within three years of the purchase. (Frederick County Deed Book 22, page 47) The original dogtrot-plan portion of Homespun was most likely constructed under Godfrey Miller's ownership during the 1790s.

Homespun was located on one of the principal north-south roads in the Shenandoah Valley. Alternately known as the Back Road and Cedar Creek and Opequon Turnpike, later shortened to Cedar Creek Grade, a continual flow of commodities and travelers passed through the farm going to and from Winchester, which was a major transportation hub in the lower valley.

Godfrey Miller was born in Gruena, Germany on May 6, 1730 and was living in Winchester by August 1766, having arrived there via London and Philadelphia. Miller was a weaver by training and of an industrious nature. Soon after arriving in Winchester he began purchasing property in the town, and by 1770 was building his own house and shop in the center of the community. In addition to weaving, he was interested in drugs and medicine, eventually opening an apothecary

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Homespun  
Frederick County, VA**

**Section 8 Page 9  
Historical Background Continued**

on Loudoun Street. These businesses passed to his sons John and Abraham. When Godfrey Miller died in 1803, he left Homespun to his son, John Miller. (Frederick County Will Book 7, page 188)

John Miller (1775-1845) was the second of nine children born to Godfrey Miller and Anna Kurtz Miller. John became a weaver and ultimately took over his father's general merchandise and drugstore in Winchester in partnership with his brother Abraham. He served as a lieutenant in the War of 1812 and was an active participant in the civic and religious life of Winchester. John Miller was the mayor of Winchester from 1836-1837. It was during John Miller's ownership of Homespun that the masonry addition was made to the eastern end of the house and most likely the dogtrot or breezeway enclosed to form the central passage.

John Miller married Margaretta Sperry in 1803, the year of his father's death. This marriage produced five children. When Miller died in 1845 he left Homespun to his second child, Rebecca Anne Miller Bell. (Frederick County Will Book 22, page 15)

By the time Rebecca Anne Miller Bell (1813 - 1852) inherited Homespun she was married to John Newton Bell. Rebecca was Bell's first wife with whom he had six children, and through this marriage the property passed into Bell family ownership.

John Newton Bell (1810-1845) was the sixth child and first son of John Bell II (1773-1838). He took over his father's mercantile business and was active in civic and religious affairs in the Winchester area. He was one of the organizers of Mount Hebron Cemetery in Winchester and served as its secretary for many years. Along with a number of Winchester citizens, Bell was imprisoned at the Fort McHenry Prison in Baltimore during the Civil War, from which he was released in December 1864.

Following Rebecca Bell's death in April 1852, John N. Bell married Margaretta Hutton Brown (1831-1907) of Baltimore. This second marriage produced an additional four Bell children, including Stewart Bell, Sr. who was born in the family's home on North Cameron Street in Winchester on the eve of the Third Battle of Winchester (September 18, 1864). Stewart Bell would live until 1948, and it would be through him that Homespun farm ownership would be reassembled under one person.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Homespun  
Frederick County, VA

Section 8 Page 10  
Historical Background Continued

In 1858 John Bell commissioned a survey of his property on what was then known as the Cedar Creek and Opequon Turnpike. Entitled "Map of Homespun The Property of John N. Bell, Esq., Frederick County, Virginia; Surveyed and Drawn by M. Blythe, C. Engineer 1858," the survey shows a plantation consisting of 466.25 acres, bisected by the turnpike. Approximately half of the farm was devoted to orchards. The map shows a long, narrow domestic structure proportioned to the present house. In addition to the house, two small outbuildings are depicted directly behind it, presumably one being the existing smokehouse or "meathouse." Other farm buildings were shown somewhat removed from the house to the southwest. In addition, a turnpike tollbooth was located approximately halfway between the house and the western boundary of the property. At that time the back of the property extended all the way to the Prichard Farm, site of the most intense fighting during the Second Battle of Kernstown (July 1864).

As was almost all of the Shenandoah Valley and Winchester, Homespun was caught up in the trauma of the Civil War. The farm and buildings are within core area of the Second Kernstown Battlefield (July 24, 1864). The property here under consideration also lies within the study area of the Second Battle of Winchester (June 13-15, 1863) and portions of the historic farm lie with the study area of First Kernstown battlefield (March 23, 1861). These boundaries were established by the National Park Service in 1992 and subsequently endorsed by the United States Congress in the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District and Commission Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-333). The Battle of Second Kernstown is significant in that it was the opening battle of the General Philip Sheridan's infamous 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign that would by October of that year lead to the Battle of Cedar Creek and Confederate loss of the valley. *Family history claims that the house was used as a hospital following Second Kernstown.*

Homespun remained in the Bell ownership in the years following the Civil War, seemingly without change and with little notice. However, in May 1879 a new survey of the farm was prepared by George Hall of Winchester and recorded in Frederick County Deed Book 96, page 253. The survey shows the farm reduced to 322.6 acres, but still bisected by Cedar Creek and the Opequon Turnpike. The same arrangement of buildings as in the survey from 21 years earlier is shown. While reduced in size, the farm was still primarily devoted to orchards.

In a decree from the November 1880 Term of the Circuit Court concerning a case titled Special Commissioners Homes Conrad and Richard Parker vs. John N. Bell et.al., the court decreed that Homespun should be placed into the hands of the Special Commissioners and sold for non



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Homespun  
Frederick County, VA**

**Section 8 Page 11  
Historical Background Continued**

payment of taxes. Subsequently, in December of the same year the Special Commissioners sold a portion of Homespun to Stewart Brown of Baltimore, MD. (Frederick County Deed Book 95 page 253) As John Newton Bell's wife was a Brown from Baltimore, it is reasonable to presume that Bell's in-laws intervened to rescue the property and keep it in the family--albeit extended family--ownership.

In early 1881 the remaining 147.8 acres of the farm were sold to John N. Bell, Samuel Bell, and William A. Bell, the sons of John Newton Bell and Rebecca Miller Bell. (Frederick County Deed Book 96, page 250) This latter portion of the property contained the house and outbuildings. It was during this period of ownership that the rear gallery porch was constructed.

Subsequently, ownership of the property was consolidated under the ownership of Samuel Bell. As he never married, when he passed on in 1935 the property was left in his estate to the children of his full brothers and sisters. Rebecca M. Bell, Agnes Bell Schultz, Elizabeth Bell Boyd, Fred S. Boyd, and Robert S. Boyd, administrator for the John N. Boyd estate, all beneficiaries of the estate of Samuel Bell, conveyed the property to Stewart Bell, Sr. on April 10, 1935. (Frederick County Deed Book 170, page 40) The sellers were the children or descendants of the children from John Newton Bell's marriage to Rebecca Miller Bell while the purchaser, Stewart Bell, was the product of John Newton Bell's second marriage to Margaretta Brown Bell. In 1929 Stewart Bell, Sr. had purchased the Homespun farm acreage from George Stewart Brown (Frederick County Deed Book 157, page 247) who had acquired the property from his father, Stewart Brown in 1905. Thus, with the 1935 purchase, Stewart Bell had reconsolidated Homespun to its 1880 size. When Stewart Bell, Sr. passed away in 1948 he left Homespun, then consisting of the same 147.8 acres with improvements, to Lanier Gray via a will dated June 4, 1947. (Frederick County Will Book 58, page 57)

Lanier and Beverly R. Gray, husband and wife, sold the 147.8 acres of Homespun, including the extant buildings, to Carroll and Rosemary B. Campbell on June 4, 1957. (Frederick County Deed Book 247, page 159) Mr. Campbell passed away on October 18, 1958 and Mrs. Campbell inherited their combined estate. Mrs. Campbell subsequently married John H. Eadie in the 1960s. On December 24, 1986 Rosemary Campbell Eadie and her husband John H. Eadie subdivided the property, selling one acre of Homespun containing the existing two buildings to Glynnell L. Headley of Winchester. (Frederick County Deed Book 635, page 385)

Thirteen months later, on January 27, 1988, Glynnell L. Headley sold the property to Robert W.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Homespun  
Frederick County, VA**

**Section 8 Page 12  
Historical Background Continued**

White of Winchester. (Frederick County Deed Book 571, page 111) It was under Mr. White's ownership that the current roof, rear gallery porch and deck, and replacement windows were installed.

On November 26, 2001 Robert W. White sold the property to the current owner, R.J. Turner of Turner Enterprises, LLC of Winchester, Virginia. (Frederick County Instrument Number 010016832) Mr. Turner is seeking listing of Homespun on the National Register of Historic Places and plans to restore the structures for commercial purposes using the federal and Virginia historic tax credit programs.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Homespun  
Frederick County, VA**

**Section 9 Page 13**

---

**Bibliography**

Bell, Rebecca M., Elizabeth Bell Boyd, Fred S. Boyd, Robert S. Boyd, administrator for the John N. Boyd estate, and Agnes Bell Schultz, and all beneficiaries of the estate of Samuel Bell, Deed to Stewart Bell, Sr., 1935 Deed Book, 170, P. 40, Frederick County records, Winchester, VA.

Bell, Stewart Sr., Last Will & Testament, June 4, 1947, Will Book 58, P. 57  
Frederick County records, Winchester, VA.

Brown, George Stewart, Deed to Stewart Bell, Sr., 1929 Deed Book 157, P. 247  
Frederick County records, Winchester, VA.

Blythe, M., "Map of Homespun The Property of John N. Bell, Esq., Frederick County, Virginia; Surveyed and Drawn by C. Engineer 1858," Handley Regional Library Archives, Winchester, VA.

Eadie, John H. and Rosemary B. Campbell, Deed to Glynnell L. Headley, 1986 Deed Book, 635, P. 385, Frederick County records, Winchester, VA.

Gray, Lanier and Beverly R., Deed to Carroll and Rosemary B. Campbell, 1957 Deed Book, 247, P. 159, Frederick County records, Winchester, VA.

Hall, George. "Survey of Homespun by George Hall, May 1879" 1879 Deed Book, 96, P. 253.  
Frederick County records, Winchester, VA.

Headley, Glynnell L., Deed to Robert W. White, 1988 Deed Book, 571, P. 1111 of Winchester.  
Frederick County records, Winchester, VA

Kalbian, Maral S., *Frederick County, Virginia: History Through Architecture*. Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, Rural Landmarks Committee. Winchester, Virginia. 1999.

Miller. Godfrey Last Will & Testament, December 12, 1803, Will Book 7, P. 188  
Frederick County records, Winchester, VA.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Homespun  
Frederick County, VA

Section 9 Page 14  
Bibliography Continued

Miller, John Last Will and Testament, October 14, 1845, Book 22, P. 15  
Frederick County records, Winchester, VA.

Parkins, Jonathan and Elizabeth, Deed to Godfrey 1790 Deed Book, 22, P. 47  
Frederick County records, Winchester, VA.

Quarles, Garland R., *Some Worthy Lives: Mini-Biographies; Winchester and Frederick County*.  
Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, Winchester, Virginia. 1988.

Special Commissioners Homes Conrad and Richard Parker, Deed to Stewart Brown, 1880 Deed  
Book, 95, P. 253, Frederick County records, Winchester, VA.

Special Commissioners Homes Conrad and Richard Parker, Deed to John N. Bell, Samuel Bell,  
and William A. Bell, 1881 Deed Book, 96, P. 250, Frederick County records, Winchester, VA.

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service; Interagency Resources Division.  
*Study of Civil War Sites in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia; Pursuant to Public Law 101-628*.  
1992.

White, Robert W., Deed to Turner Real Estate, LLC, 2001 Instrument Number 010016832  
Frederick County records, Winchester, VA.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Homespun  
Frederick County, VA

Section 10 Page 15

---

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The legal boundary description for this property as contained in Frederick County Deed Book 635, Page 388 states:

Tract 2: Beginning at an iron pin in the Southern Line of Cedar Creek Grade, a corner to Tract 1; thence with the said Line, with the Arc Line 150.00 ft. (Chord N 72° 12' 51" E – 149.93 ft., Radius 1,402.39 ft.) to an iron pin in the Western Line of the Allen land; thence with the said Line, S 10° 53' 41" W. – 365.62 ft. to an iron pin, a corner to the said Tract 1; thence with the Two Following Lines of the said Land, N 79° 06' 19" W. – 131.53 ft. to an iron pin; thence N 10° 53' 41" E. – 293.67 ft. to the beginning.

The parcel also corresponds to the Frederick County Tax Map Section 63 A, Parcel 2H.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the nominated property correspond with the current parcel and lot boundaries as recorded in Frederick County Deed Book 635, page 388, and includes the historic buildings always associated with the property.

